

UNRWA's activities received "the highest level of scrutiny" by the State Department. But we don't even require UNRWA to vet its employees and aid recipients through the U.S. watch lists.

Turning to the U.N. General Assembly, Madam Speaker, it remains silent in the face of intense repression and violent attacks by the Iranian regime against peaceful demonstrators. Yet, in late June, it moved swiftly to condemn and isolate the constitutional democratic government of Honduras for acting in accordance with and in protection of the rule of law.

As for the leadership of the new session of the General Assembly, it's a "who's who" of the world's worst regimes. The President? The former foreign minister of Libya. One of the vice-presidents? From Sudan. A vice chair of the legal committee? Iran. But the U.S. has said nothing as such rogue regimes were selected for leadership positions at the U.N.

Administration officials have said, "The U.N. is essential to our efforts to galvanize concerted actions that make Americans safer and more secure." Libya, Sudan, Iran? Are you feeling secure now?

One of the greatest threats to the security of our Nation and an existential threat to our ally Israel comes from the Iranian regime and its nuclear program. This week, for the first time, a President of the United States will chair a meeting of the U.N. Security Council and will have a golden opportunity to raise the threat of Iran on the world stage. The Council will even be holding a special summit on the general issue of nuclear nonproliferation.

Yet the actions of specific countries such as Iran will be ignored. The U.S. will not use its presidency of the Council this month to push for increased sanctions on Iran or any other regime that pursues nuclear capabilities or sponsors violent extremist groups.

The International Atomic Energy Agency continues to provide nuclear technical assistance to Iran and Syria, and the U.S. remains silent.

The U.N. Development Program is accused of misusing funds in Zimbabwe, in Afghanistan and in North Korea, to name a few, and the U.S. continues to provide them with hundreds of millions of dollars every year in funding. No strings attached.

Madam Speaker, enough is enough. Let's put U.S. taxpayer dollars to work for the American people, and not for the U.N., where the inmates run the asylum.

EXCLUDING AMERICANS FROM HEALTH CARE BASED ON GEOGRAPHY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) for 1 minute.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I have been explaining the issue of

health care reform in the United States territories. Here is the problem:

Reform is sorely needed for the American citizens living in the territories, but the bills currently before this House deny us that reform. Under these bills, we will be required to purchase health insurance, but we will not be eligible for the affordability credits that help pay for it, even though more than 40 percent of those in the Northern Mariana Islands live below the poverty level.

CHIP programs will be brought to an end, but without an exchange or public option in the territories, thousands of children will lose coverage. Our Medicaid program will remain criminally underfunded.

Madam Speaker, for health insurance reform to exclude some Americans simply because of geography is wrong. It is discriminatory. And until it is remedied, my colleagues should know this "reform" leaves behind many of those who need it the very most.

A NEW PLAN NEEDED IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, 8 years ago, in the wake of the worst terrorist attack that we have ever faced in America's history, the United States sent troops to Afghanistan. These troops were sent to accomplish a difficult mission, but an achievable mission, and despite the gains that have been made to date, our mission has not been properly resourced and executed.

As such, 8 years later, the fight rages on and terrorists are still plotting to hijack our planes, blow up our bridges, wreak havoc on our cities, and murder innocent people. So the threat has not changed. Afghanistan remains a crucial theater in the war against terrorism and extremists who seek to destroy our way of life, and it deserves our utmost attention and adequate resources.

To his credit, President Obama recognizes that the war in Afghanistan does need these greater resources, but some within his administration and party are advocating a "small footprint" strategy, calling for a reduction in the number of U.S. troops on the ground and a sole focus on al Qaeda only, instead of on the Taliban-led insurgent coalition.

But a "small footprint" strategy did not work in Iraq. What did work was a robust counterinsurgency strategy backed by the surge of American troops. In fact, it was this strong presence of American soldiers in Iraq that encouraged Iraqis to come forward with valuable intelligence, which in turn led to more effective targeting of al Qaeda and other insurgent groups.

My colleagues, this can be done in Afghanistan, but it also must include support from our European allies and other freedom-loving countries who desire to rid the world of terrorism.

General McChrystal, the U.S. Commander in Afghanistan, is advocating an expanded military effort within a new counterinsurgency strategy that focuses on protecting Afghans from the intimidation tactics of the Taliban through a troop surge.

General McChrystal is a highly capable and accomplished officer with extensive counterinsurgency experience. Yesterday he warned that we need more forces within the next year and that without them, our mission in Afghanistan will "likely result in failure."

When it comes to military strategy, we should listen to those who know firsthand what the situation on the ground is in Afghanistan. But, my colleagues, we must also look at the political infrastructure of Afghanistan and be sure its political leaders are representing the best interests of the Afghan people and that political corruption is eliminated.

It is clear that the Afghan military needs our help—and our numbers. But currently there are only 173,000 men in the Afghan army and police. Compare that with Iraq. In that country, which is smaller and less populated, there are over 600,000 Iraqi army and police. Clearly we need to train more Afghan military personnel.

Unfortunately, though, for the past 8 years Afghanistan has not been a properly resourced war. The new strategy proposed by General McChrystal and General David Petraeus is focused on expanding and improving Afghan forces with better training and embedded advisers and forming a true partnership and trust between Afghan units and American units, with the end goal of growing the Afghan army and police to the point where U.S. troops could be reduced dramatically.

But before we put more American troops in Afghanistan, we need a more deliberate plan with the Afghan military that includes participation by our allies and adequate support from the Afghan people and legitimate political leaders.

The reality of the situation on the ground in Afghanistan is that it would take another 2 years to expand Afghanistan's forces to around 300,000 personnel. Experts suggest at least 360,000 Afghan troops and police are needed to adequately fight the counterinsurgency and to effectively police the country's 33 million inhabitants. This is the key to our success.

One thing we must not forget is that a withdrawal at this critical juncture would destabilize Pakistan, an ally in a region of instability and a country in possession of nuclear weapons.

So, my colleagues, we need a new strategy that can work, but this new strategy can work only if we ask for patience from the American people and the knowledge that a mission of this magnitude and importance is not going to be won overnight or from afar. The sacrifices we make overseas now will prevent another 9/11-style attack here at home in the future.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, how simply children learn to pray: "Thy will be done." Are they more dependent, innocent, and free compared to the rest of us? Or is it because they are more practiced in obedience? "Thy will be done."

As adults, Lord, do we try to convince You by our prayers to see events, problems, or others as we see them? Perhaps blinded by our own fears and guilt, we are easily convinced by the cumulative lies of selective history and the intellectual culture. So much so, that we insist on thinking that we are on an even match with You, Lord.

So, it is Your will against ours. How arrogant even Your people of faith can be.

In truth, make us humble of heart, Lord; or else You may find Your own way to humble us before You.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CONGRATULATING CHIEF TIM MCELWEE

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on August 28, Chief Tim McElwee of the Prescott Fire Department was named the 2009 Safety Officer

of the Year by the International Association of Fire Chiefs. A 30-year PFD veteran, Chief McElwee heads his agency's training division. He literally wrote the book on safety and training requirements for the department.

Chief McElwee's accomplishments also extend beyond the Prescott Fire Department. He sits on the Arizona Wildfire Academy Board of Directors, helps oversee disaster response for his region, and has managed an organization that provides training to fire departments throughout the area.

Chief McElwee will be retiring in May 2010, but his many contributions to the Prescott Fire Department and to Arizona will help keep our communities safe for years to come.

I congratulate Chief McElwee for this much-deserved honor.

JOB CORPS DAY CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF PRODUCING PAYROLLS FOR AMERICA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Today marks a historic event for the Nation's most significant Federal job-training agency. The Job Corps celebrates its 45th anniversary today, recognizing the agency's many years of service to America during which it has helped launch the careers of nearly 3 million disadvantaged youths.

As part of the National Job Corps Association's celebration of this important anniversary, I'm proud to cosponsor Congressman JERRY MORAN's resolution, H. Con. Res. 163, to designate September 23 as National Job Corps Day.

Since 1964, the Job Corps has created a network of 123 Job Corps centers in 48 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. As part of the 45th anniversary celebration, I am pleased that one of my area's Job Corps interns, Esmeralda Sanchez, will be shadowing me tomorrow.

Additionally, my local Homestead Job Corps center is hosting an open house event on Thursday, October 1, for the entire south Florida community to attend.

Both locally and nationally, the Job Corps has definitely benefited America by producing payrolls for our country.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today the House will consider the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act. The legislation would extend unemployment benefits by up to 13 weeks for over 300,000 jobless workers who reside in high unemployment States and that are projected to run out of unemploy-

ment compensation by the end of September. This bill will serve as a lifeline, aiding those who are still struggling to find work in Las Vegas and other parts of Nevada.

The once recession-proof economy of my district of Las Vegas has not been spared from the effects of this downturn. In fact, Nevada has been hit harder than any other State by the foreclosure crisis, and our unemployment rate has skyrocketed to over 13 percent, the second highest in the Nation. This legislation will bring much-needed relief to many jobless Nevadans.

It is absolutely critical that Congress step up and pass this federally funded extension of unemployment benefits. I support the bill we are considering today because it will help hardworking Nevadans get by until the situation improves—and it will—and they can return to work.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. This week, the conference committee will meet on Defense authorization. Defense authorization: we are supposed to provide for the common defense. That is the number one job of this government, not all the social engineerings going on. And guess what? We're going to be having a discussion over a hate crimes bill in Defense authorization. We're going to be talking about defending America and, in the same bill, taking away the rights of Americans.

There is not one law that will be covered by that hate crimes bill that is not already in existence in every State in the Union. Every one of those crimes is covered.

James Byrd's defendants got the death penalty, the two most culpable. This will not do anything. But if you want to have a discussion on hate crimes, let's have it head up on hate crimes. Let's don't stick it into something as important as Defense authorization.

IN TRIBUTE TO ARMY PFC JEREMIAH J. MONROE

(Mr. MURPHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of New York. I rise today with the very sad duty of reporting the tragic passing of Army Private First Class Jeremiah J. Monroe. PFC Monroe was taken from us on September 17, 2009, by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan, just 2 months after his deployment.

Private First Class Monroe was assigned to the 630th Route Clearance Company, 7th Engineer Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, based in Fort Drum, New York. A beloved father, brother, son, friend, and soldier from Warren County, Jeremiah, will be sorely missed by the entire Adirondack and Fort Drum communities.